



# **PANTHRISK WEEKLY RISK REPORT**

**Week of May 17–23, 2026**

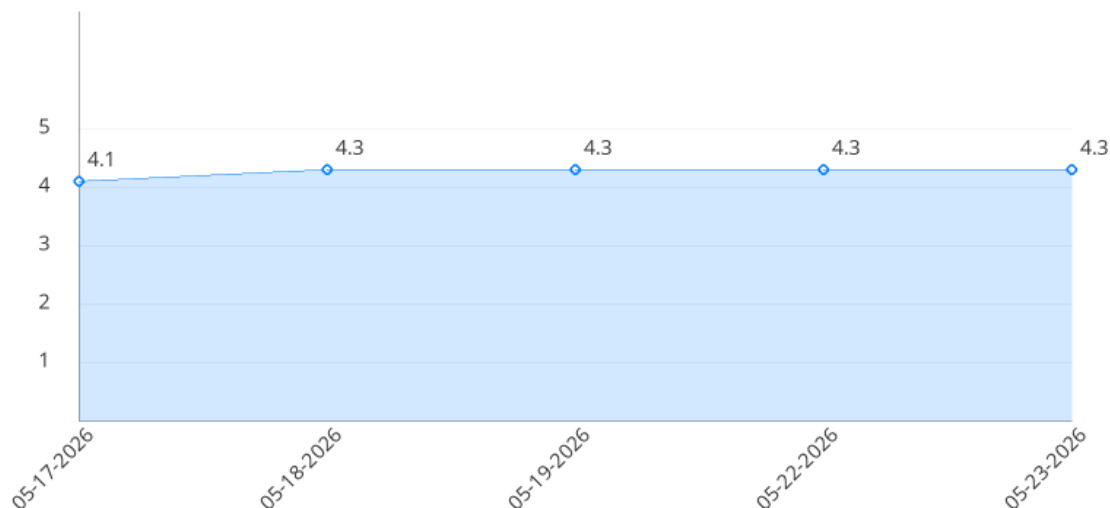
Pantrisk monitors humanity's most serious existential threats using curated news sources and AI-assisted analysis. Each day, our models evaluate key global developments, generate risk-level assessments, and propose actionable interventions. This weekly report summarizes the trends, risk shifts, and notable insights from May 17–23, 2026 across all tracked categories.

Generated: May 23, 2026



# Nuclear War

## Score Trend (Week of May 17–23, 2026)



This week, the global nuclear threat level has remained elevated due to several factors, including Iran's progress towards nuclear weapons capability and the breakdown of international agreements on nuclear proliferation. Tensions are further exacerbated by Russia's emphasis on nuclear weapons as a key element of its security strategy, as well as the modernization of nuclear arsenals by major powers. Joint nuclear drills by Russia and Belarus have also contributed to the heightened threat level, alongside North Korea's arms support to Russia. The situation is compounded by escalating rhetoric and military posturing involving NATO and Iran, which raises concerns about potential conflicts and the risk of nuclear engagement.



# Nuclear War

## Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Facilitate urgent diplomatic dialogues between NATO and Russia to establish new communication protocols and de-escalation measures.
- **[NGO]** Advocate for increased public awareness and education on nuclear risks and the importance of disarmament.
- **[Industry]** Invest in technologies that enhance verification and monitoring of nuclear activities to support arms control efforts.
- **[International Organizations]** Reinforce commitments to existing arms control agreements and pursue new treaties to address emerging nuclear technologies.
- **[Diplomatic Entities]** Engage with Iran and North Korea through diplomatic and economic incentives to curb their nuclear ambitions.



# Nuclear War

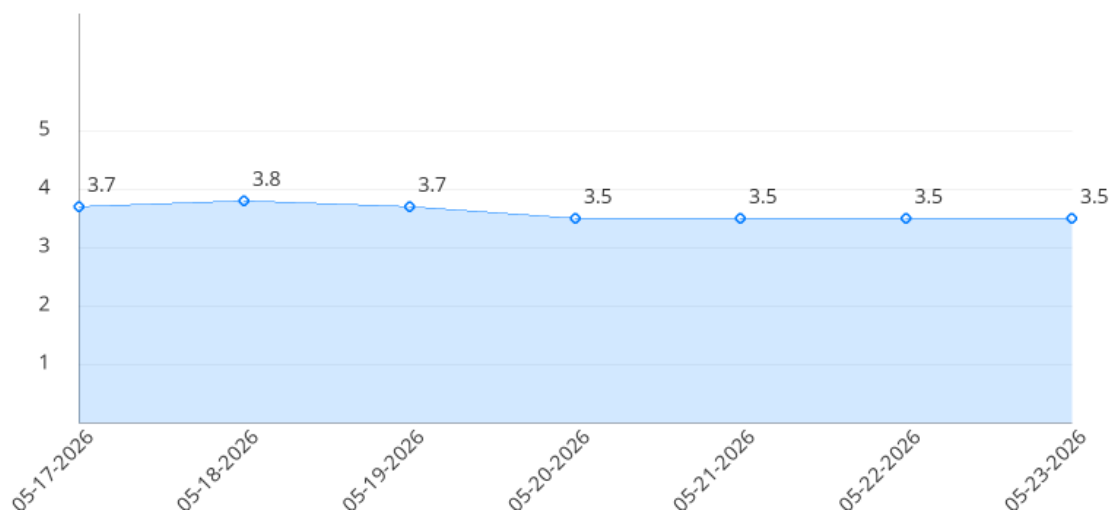
## Relevant Articles

- Iran denies nuclear weapons ambi...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Space, Nuclear Weapons, and U.S....* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- US ramps nuclear weapons product...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Iran 'frighteningly close' to nu...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Iran 'frighteningly close' to de...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- B61-13 first production unit com...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- Kremlin insists nuclear weapons ...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- Nuclear weapons 'cornerstone' of...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- US energy secretary says Iran is...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- US ramps nuclear weapons product...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- Belarus Hosts Russian Nuclear We...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Belarus, Russia hold drills on c...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Germany Busts Secret Supply Netw...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Belarus announces start of nucle...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Belarus launches joint drills wi...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Putin, observing nuclear drills,...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Russia Moves Nuclear Weapons Int...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Ambassador Leiter: A deal allowi...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- North Korea Sent Soldiers and Ar...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Russia Begins Nuclear Weapons Dr...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Nuclear nonproliferation treaty ...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- Ambassador Leiter: A deal allowi...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- Russian Nuclear Weapons Delivere...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- North Korea Sent Soldiers and Ar...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- Application of nuclear weapons p...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)



# Artificial Intelligence

## Score Trend (Week of May 17–23, 2026)



This week, the AI risk level remained moderate, primarily due to the increasing deployment of AI technologies in sensitive sectors such as finance, healthcare, and government. Concerns were raised about the ethical use, potential misuse, and the need for robust safety and alignment protocols. Discussions also highlighted issues related to AI sovereignty, security, and the concentration of power. There is a notable emphasis on the urgency of implementing comprehensive regulatory frameworks to manage these risks effectively. The ongoing rapid advancements and integration of AI across various sectors underline the critical need for governance and international cooperation.



# Artificial Intelligence

## Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Expedite the development and enforcement of comprehensive AI regulations to ensure safe and ethical deployment across sensitive sectors.
- **[Industry]** Prioritize the development of robust AI alignment and safety protocols in product development to mitigate risks of misuse and unintended consequences.
- **[NGO]** Advocate for transparency and accountability in AI systems to build public trust and prevent ethical breaches.
- **[Academia]** Conduct interdisciplinary research on AI's societal impacts and contribute findings to inform policy-making and ethical guidelines.
- **[International Organizations]** Facilitate global cooperation to establish standards and best practices for AI governance and risk management.



# Artificial Intelligence

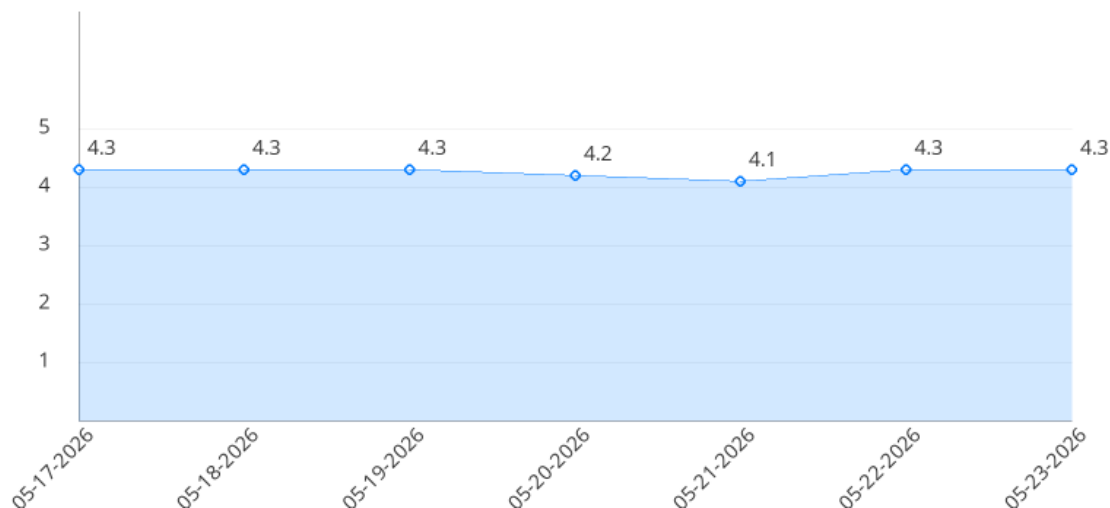
## Relevant Articles

- OpenAI and Malta partner to bring...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Helping ChatGPT better recognize...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Trump and Xi Signal AI Safety Pr...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- US-China moves to forge new unde...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Pope decries the rise of AI-dire...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Helping ChatGPT better recognize...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- OpenAI available at FedRAMP Mode...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- Protecting people from harmful m...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- Elon Musk's darkest AI warning j...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- AI's risk to political dialogue ...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- OpenAI and Dell partner to bring...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- OpenAI and Malta partner to bring...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Scaling Trusted Access for Cyber...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- OpenAI models, Codex, and Manage...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Musk vs. Altman: AI safety canno...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Advancing content provenance for...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Cybersecurity in the Intelligenc...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Why is the government considerin...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- The global race for AI sovereign...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- AI-related data breaches surging...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- An OpenAI model has disproved a ...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Advancing content provenance for...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- OpenAI and Dell partner to bring...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Scaling Trusted Access for Cyber...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Protecting people from harmful m...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- White House delays signing execu...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Trump postpones AI executive ord...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Trump calls off AI executive ord...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Edly-Allen advances critical AI ...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Artificial intelligence could po...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Advancing content provenance for...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- FBI: East Texas man used AI to m...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- 'Emergent misalignment,' when AI...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- Trump abruptly cancels EO signin...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- Trump pulls AI safety order afte...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)



# Climate Change

## Score Trend (Week of May 17–23, 2026)



This week, climate change risks remain high, driven by a combination of escalating extreme weather events, disruptions to ecosystems, and insufficient policy responses. These factors are compounded by geopolitical challenges and potential tipping points in climate systems, such as warming oceans affecting biodiversity. The underestimation of forest vulnerabilities and the potential for policy setbacks further exacerbate the situation. Overall, the persistent high-risk scores indicate a pressing need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts to address these multifaceted challenges.



# Climate Change

## Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement and enforce stricter emissions regulations and incentives to promote renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **[NGO]** Increase public awareness campaigns to educate communities on the impacts of climate change and promote adaptive behaviors.
- **[Industry]** Invest in sustainable technologies and practices to reduce environmental footprints and enhance resilience to climate impacts.
- **[Research Institutions]** Conduct studies on the socio-economic impacts of climate change and the effects on biodiversity to inform policy decisions.
- **[International Organizations]** Facilitate global cooperation and funding for climate adaptation and mitigation projects, especially in vulnerable regions.



# Climate Change

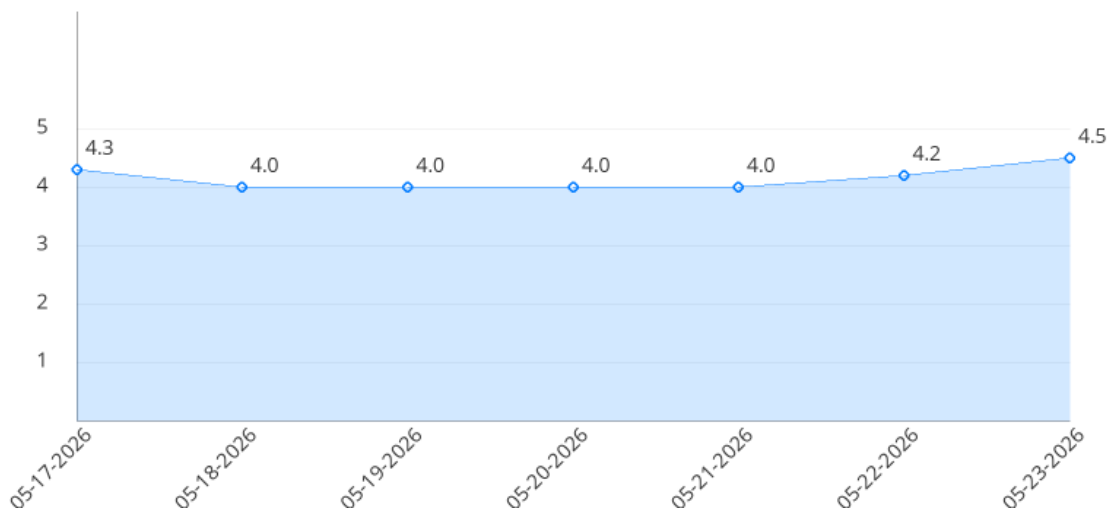
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- UNDP Warns: Climate Change Could...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Climate change is making it hard...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Pakistan among countries most af...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
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- Floods and finance: why climate ...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- A fungal disease, along with cli...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
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- Scientists say every hurricane s...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- How Amazon Deforestation Rainfal...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Warming erodes climate connectiv...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Experts urge WHO to declare clim...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- The worst climate future is less...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Shell Faces Down Investor Challe...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Indonesia drafts climate change ...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- What are climate tipping points ...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Pushed to the edge: Seabird worl...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- UN backs world court climate opi...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Climate change is destroying Arc...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- How climate change is destroying...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Climate change could bring a sha...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Carbon markets underestimate the...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Carbon Markets Undervalue Climat...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- UN backs historic climate crisis...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Climate Change Is Becoming a Fin...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- How climate change is destroying...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Russia Joins U.S. and Iran in Vo...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Weather driven by climate change...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)



# Pandemics

## Score Trend (Week of May 17–23, 2026)



This week, the global pandemic risk remains high due to ongoing Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, which have been declared a global health emergency. Additionally, there are persistent challenges with COVID-19, avian flu, and hantavirus. The situation is exacerbated by widespread misinformation affecting vaccine uptake and public health response. Efforts to contain these outbreaks are hampered by difficulties in vaccine deployment and misinformation, which undermine public trust in vaccination programs. The pandemic risk score has fluctuated slightly but remains consistently high, underscoring the need for coordinated international response and effective public health strategies.



# Pandemics

## Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Increase funding and resources for rapid response teams to contain Ebola and hantavirus outbreaks.
- **[NGO]** Launch targeted campaigns to combat misinformation and improve vaccine confidence and uptake.
- **[Industry]** Accelerate research and development of vaccines for Ebola and other high-risk pathogens.
- **[International Organizations]** Coordinate global efforts to ensure equitable access to vaccines and antiviral treatments.
- **[Community Leaders]** Support community education and engagement initiatives in affected regions to improve local response and resilience.



# Pandemics

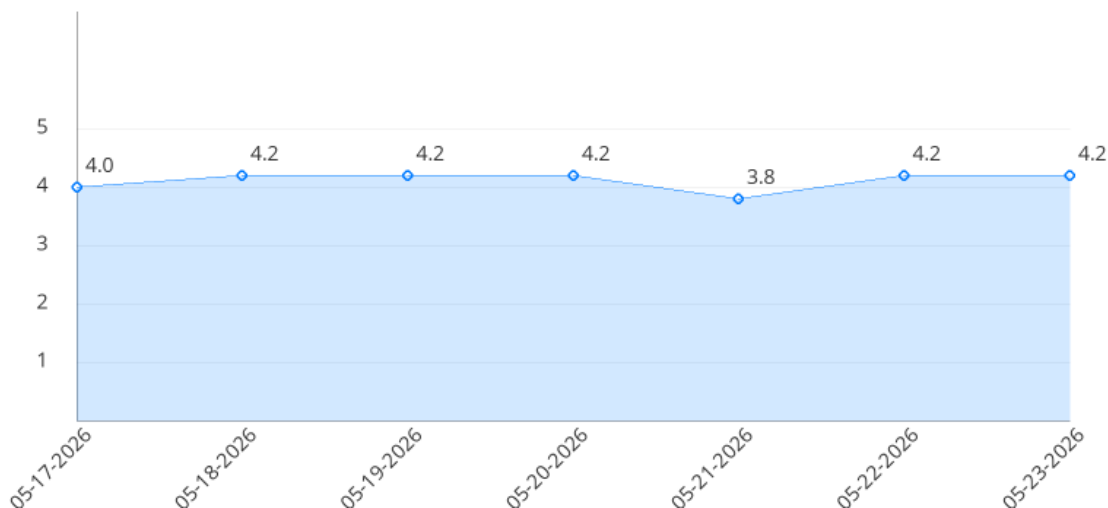
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- New Ebola outbreak hits Democrat...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- WHO officials on hantavirus case...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- WHO declares Ebola outbreak in D...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- DR Congo Ebola death toll hits 8...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- A new Ebola outbreak has already...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
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- Vaccine skepticism now the norm ...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- WHO declares global health emerg...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
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- DRC struggling to contain Ebola ...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- WHO reports H5N1 death among var...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
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- New Ebola outbreak hits Democrat...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Vaccine skepticism now the norm ...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Ebola outbreak declared as a a C...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- More California marine mammals c...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Indiana: More than 350,000 birds...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- WHO rep: 'Significant uncertaint...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- New Ebola outbreak hits Democrat...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Ebola outbreak in Africa raises ...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- US flu season receding but still...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Indiana: More than 350,000 birds...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Ebola fears surge on the ground ...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Sri Lanka dengue outbreak nears ...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Rare Ebola outbreak poses low ri...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- More California marine mammals c...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- WHO declares Ebola outbreak an e...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Ebola outbreak reaches major cit...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- There is no Ebola vaccine for th...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Myocarditis rates surged during ...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- DR Congo Ebola outbreak reaches ...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- Ebola risk 'very high' in easter...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- WHO raises risk of Ebola outbrea...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- WHO declares Ebola outbreak a pu...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- WHO warns Ebola outbreak risk no...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)



# Information Integrity

## Score Trend (Week of May 17–23, 2026)



This week, the global misinformation risk remains consistently high, primarily driven by AI-generated content, political propaganda, and targeted disinformation campaigns. The threat level has been exacerbated by the widespread dissemination of falsehoods across politics, health, and consumer safety sectors, with deepfakes and digital misinformation campaigns playing a significant role. Despite a slight dip to a moderate risk level on May 21, the overall trend indicates persistent challenges in managing misinformation. The proliferation of fake news and scams continues to impact multiple regions and sectors, highlighting the need for enhanced detection and mitigation strategies. Efforts to counteract these threats must focus on improving AI detection tools, increasing public awareness, and fostering international cooperation to address cross-border disinformation effectively.



# Information Integrity

## Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Implement stricter regulations and penalties for the creation and dissemination of AI-generated misinformation and deepfakes.
- **[Industry]** Enhance AI and machine learning tools to detect and flag fake content more effectively and in real-time across various platforms.
- **[NGO]** Increase public education campaigns focused on media literacy and critical thinking skills to help individuals identify and report misinformation.
- **[International Organizations]** Foster international cooperation to track and counteract cross-border disinformation campaigns and develop unified strategies.
- **[Educational Institutions]** Integrate media literacy programs into curricula to equip individuals with skills to critically evaluate information.



# Information Integrity

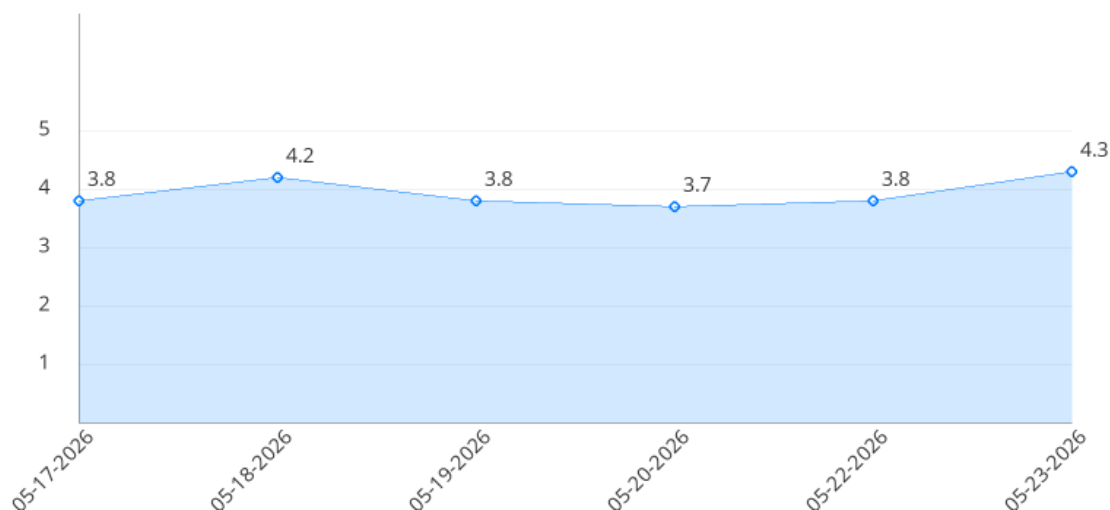
## Relevant Articles

- Trump: 500K fake mail-In ballots...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Musk Boosts Misinformation About...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- East Alabama doctor says mammogr...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Trump calls New York Times repor...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- EY retracts study after research...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- Deep fake of Chief Rabbi identif...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- US Immigration probes foreign st...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- Criminal ring selling fake medic...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- Trump: 500K fake mail-In ballots...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- California GOP accuses DeMaio of...* [May 18] - [Read article](#)
- The worsening fake news problem ...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- 'More real than real': Why deep-...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Disinformation spells fast-growi...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- New Reaper Malware Uses Fake Mic...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Keep saying no to fake news, say...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Online medical misinformation is...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Deepfakes and fake profiles rais...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Indonesian authorities using onl...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Indonesia using online disinform...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- AI Slop Floods Bug Bounty Progra...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Image claiming to show Trump wit...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Social Media - No evidence that ...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- X posts - Altered video of Byron...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- X posts - There's no eviden...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- For hantavirus infections, docto...* [May 21] - [Read article](#)
- Stray Ukrainian drones test Euro...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Vietnam imposes up to \$1,900 fin...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Concerning outlook: MetService w...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Fake OpenAI Ads Appear on Subway...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Russia Hijacked Bluesky Accounts...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- 'A racist caricature': Democrats...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- FSPD warns residents about fake ...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- Vietnam's new anti-fake news dec...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- AI used to fake evidence that en...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)
- Foul play: Scams target soccer f...* [May 23] - [Read article](#)



# Unknown / Black Swan

Score Trend (Week of May 17–23, 2026)



This week, the potential for quantum computing to disrupt the security of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies has been identified as a significant Black Swan risk, with implications for global financial systems. Additionally, NASA's discovery of a new atmospheric effect on Mars suggests unknowns in planetary science that could impact future missions. Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly involving Iran, are also highlighted as a potential Black Swan risk. Furthermore, a recent eruption in the Bismarck Sea has raised concerns about unforeseen geological disruptions and their cascading effects. These events underscore the need for proactive measures to address these unpredictable threats.



# Unknown / Black Swan

## Recommended Risk Reduction Actions

- **[Government]** Invest in quantum-resistant cryptographic research to safeguard financial systems against potential quantum computing threats.
- **[Space Agencies]** Conduct further studies to understand the newly discovered atmospheric effect on Mars and its potential implications for future missions.
- **[International Organizations]** Increase diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East, particularly involving Iran.
- **[Regional Governments]** Prepare emergency response plans for communities potentially affected by the Bismarck Sea eruption.
- **[Industry]** Collaborate with financial sectors to develop early warning systems for quantum computing threats.



# Unknown / Black Swan

## Relevant Articles

- Quantum Computers: an Existential...* [May 17] - [Read article](#)
- NASA's MAVEN Makes 1st Discovery...* [May 19] - [Read article](#)
- Israeli displacement policy in o...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- Israel's direction poses 'existen...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- 'Black Swan' Could Reshape the F...* [May 20] - [Read article](#)
- New Eruption in the Bismarck Sea* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Here are Multiple Occasions Wher...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- Middle East war is 'black swan' ...* [May 22] - [Read article](#)
- New Eruption in the Bismarck Sea* [May 23] - [Read article](#)

# Week in Review: May 17–23, 2026



This week, existential risk trends across various domains have shown a mix of stability and heightened concerns. In the nuclear domain, the threat level remains elevated due to geopolitical tensions and nuclear modernization efforts, particularly involving Russia, Iran, and North Korea. AI risks are moderate, with ongoing discussions about ethical use and the need for regulatory frameworks as AI technologies become more integrated into critical sectors. Climate change risks persist at high levels, driven by extreme weather events and insufficient policy responses, emphasizing the need for coordinated global efforts. Pandemic risks also remain high, with Ebola outbreaks and challenges in vaccine deployment highlighting the importance of international cooperation in public health. Information integrity continues to face high risks from AI-generated content and disinformation campaigns, necessitating improved detection and mitigation strategies. Lastly, potential Black Swan events, such as quantum computing's impact on cryptocurrencies and unforeseen geological disruptions, underscore the importance of preparedness for unpredictable threats.



## Closing Notes

Thank you for reviewing this week's Panthrisk report. To stay informed, visit [panthrisk.com](https://panthrisk.com) — our dashboard is updated daily with the latest risk levels, GPT summaries, and recommended actions.

If you find this information valuable, please share it with colleagues working to reduce global catastrophic risk. Awareness is the first step toward action.